United Nations S/2000/315

Security Council

Distr.: General
14 April 2000

Original: English

Note verbale dated 13 April 2000 from the Permanent Mission of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

With regard to the ongoing deliberations in the Security Council on possible violations of the Security Council sanctions against the National Union for the Total Liberation of Angola (UNITA), the Permanent Mission of Bulgaria to the United Nations submits upon instructions from Government of Bulgaria, the following information in connection with paragraph 44 of the report of the Panel of Experts (S/2000/203).

The investigation conducted by the Ministry of Defense confirmed that in 1996, 40 Zairian military specialists were trained in P. Volov Military College in the town of Shumen. The training was carried out in accordance with a bilateral agreement between the Ministry of Defense of Bulgaria and the Ministry of Defense of Zaire. The results of the investigation completely exclude the possibility presumed in the report of the Panel of Experts that these military officers could have been UNITA personnel. The Zairian military officers were trained in French and for this purpose interpreters were provided by the Bulgarian side. The trainees communicated among themselves in French, too. A high-ranking Zairian military representative was present at the practical exercise following the concluding stage of the training.

The check-up made by the Ministry of the Interior proved that all military officers in the class entered and stayed in the territory of Bulgaria as Zairian citizens, holding passports issued by the former Zairian authorities. The Ministry of Defense has in its possession the complete list of the Zairian trainees and can make it available to the Sanctions Committee upon request.

The Permanent Mission of Bulgaria would be grateful if the content of the above note verbale would be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

00-39197 (E) 140400